

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

WISE COUNTY/TOWN OF BIG STONE GAP WATER SHORTAGE SITUATION REPORT # 39

1300 Hours December 21, 2005

New Information in Bold Italics

The next Situation Report will be 28 December 2005 at 1400 hours. Information for Situation Report should be submitted to the VEOC no later than 1200 hours. Conference Calls are on an as needed basis.

SUMMARY

The town of Big Stone Gap continues to experience water shortages due to drought like conditions. Actions are being coordinated with surrounding communities and the state to alleviate the adverse conditions.

EXECUTIVE ACTION

EOC Activation: The Virginia VEOC is at Increased Readiness condition.

State of Emergency: On October 7, 2005, Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency to exist for Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to assist these localities in responding to a critical water shortage. Governor Warner directed appropriate assistance be rendered by agencies of the state government to respond to needs in Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap to alleviate adverse conditions created by the water shortage. Executive Order 99 (2005) was amended to include an Open Burning Ban on Wise County and the Town of Big Stone Gap.

Protective Actions: Local Emergency Declared: Wise County declared a local emergency on September 26, 2005.

WEATHER

Forecast: Southwest VA: Wednesday 21 December – Mostly sunny, high temperatures mid to upper 30s, West winds 10 MPH or less. Wednesday night – Mostly clear, low temperatures around 20, Light winds. Thursday 22 December – Mostly sunny, high temperatures mid to upper 40s, Southwest winds 10 MPH or less. Thursday night – Mostly clear, low temperatures low to mid 20s, Southwest winds 10 MPH or less. Friday 23 December – Mostly sunny, high temperatures upper 40s to low 50s, Southwest winds 5 to 15 MPH. Friday night – Mostly clear, low temperatures in low to mid 30s. Saturday 24 December – Increasing cloudiness with a 30% chance of rain in the afternoon, high temperatures mid to upper 40s. Saturday night – Mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of rain, low temperatures mid 30s. Sunday 25 December – Mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of rain, high temperatures upper 30s to low 40s.

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison: VDEM Local Support Services Division Region Four Coordinator is available as needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 13 - Public Safety &

Virginia Department of Military Affairs/National Guard (VDMA/VNG)

Security:

Temporary control of two blivets located at Bullitt Park (Water Filtration Plant) has been turned over to Town of Big Stone Gap. All National Guard personnel are off State Active Duty. Remaining two blivets are to be removed no later than 15 January 2006 and National Guard personnel will be placed on State Active Duty for their recovery.

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH

ESF 11 – Agriculture & Natural Resources:

Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ continues to work with the town of Big Stone Gap to monitor water production, water sales and calculate the amount of water losses on a monthly basis.

INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT BRANCH

ESF 1 – Transportation:

Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)

The VDOT has four message boards in the Big Stone Gap area with plans to change the messages on the boards every three days so that members of the community do not become complacent.

A VDOT tractor is being used to pull stainless steel tankers of water.

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support:

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

The VEOC is coordinating requests for assistance from the locality and state agencies, and is facilitating conference calls with the locality and state agencies ***as needed.***

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

Current Powell River stream flow is ***29 cubic feet per second. (Stream flow reached a high of 111cfs during recent rains and has decreased steadily during the past week with a reading of 18cfs on 21 December.) The water treatment plant has processed over one million gallons per day since the last Situation Report. Water supply from Lee and Scott Counties is being decreased and the water supply from Town of Appalachia has been discontinued. Electric pump purchased to pump water from Powell Valley Cave Number 1 is ready, if needed.*** Wise County is submitting Local Situation Report ***weekly.***

Prepared by: Mike Gray
Authority of Michael Cline, State Coordinator
/s/ Al Pace, Deputy Director of Operations